GAYS IN THE MILITARY

WHAT THEY SAID

The Gazette Telegraph hot line asked readers:

"Should gays and lesbians be allowed to serve in the military?"

"Homosexuals should not be allowed in the military. It would interfere with trust, which is the most necessary part of any kind of military establishment. If you introduce homosexuality into that equation, you break the trust."

— **Mario Garcia, Manitou Springs**

"Yes, they ought to lift the ban; we've had gays in the military forever. There's no problem as long as they follow the same rules for behavior that are applied to heterosexuals. No open displays of affection, no comingling in the barracks. There's not a real problem with it."

— **Mike Welsh, Colorado Springs**

"There's absolutely no question that gays and lesbians should be allowed to serve in the military. They, unfortunately, have had to serve in the closet for many years, and they've all served with loyalty, pride and heroism. I would most certainly rather serve with a gay or lesbian than with some of the bigots in the service."

— **Mitzi Kempt, Colorado Springs**

"I don't think gays and lesbians should be allowed in the military. You can separate men and women, but you can't separate homosexuals. There is a certain level of privacy that you need that would be invaded on if you let homosexuals in the military."

— **Debbie Musgrave, Fountain**

"After 20 years in the Air Force I would not serve with a gay, whether it is a man or a woman. . . . Gay lifestyle is not conducive to the open life of a military person. Gays in the military now are hiding. But if the ban is lifted they would be overt. This action would be completely reprehensible and against the whole idea of the military, especially under combat conditions."

— **Paul Scruggs, Colorado Springs**

"I served in the Army for four years and worked with people I knew to be gay or lesbian. They never harassed me or discriminated against me like heterosexual males did."

— **Liz Richardson, Colorado Springs**

"I am against gays being in the military. The military is not a place for social experiment. It is an organization set up to protect our nation."

— **Bob West, Colorado Springs**

"I am a retired veteran with 24 years in the Air Force and no one has convinced me or even mentioned what the gays and lesbians will contribute to the armed services. Furthermore, all ! can see for the financial part of it would be a continued strain on the medical services."

— **Al Hughes, Colorado Springs**

"I believe that gays and lesbians should be allowed to serve in the military. The arguments being used against it sound like the same arguments the military used back in the '40s to keep the blacks segregated from the military."

— **Jay Norman, Colorado Springs**

"I do not believe that gays and lesbians should be allowed to serve in the military. We all are aware of the fact that Mr. Clinton does not have any military experience, and his failure to adhere to the advice of top military leaders such as the Joint Chiefs of Staff certainly makes me wonder what he would do in a military conflict. Would he then ignore these experts?"

— **Ed Kovitz, Peyton**

"My biggest question is, will people already serving in the military who believe that gays and lesbians should not be allowed in, would they be allowed out of their contracts?"

— **George Labishak, Widefield**

"Twenty-three states have laws against sodomy. I don't think we should welcome these lawbreakers into the military. Also, homosexuals started the AIDS problem and we don't need this burden on the already overburdened military medical facility."

— **Lester Curtiss, Colorado Springs**

"I have no objection to homosexuals serving in the military as long as they keep it to themselves. I served in World War II and know that homosexuals would create a morale problem because their lifestyle is flaunted. Quotas of these people would make them be next in promotions, etc. A lot of people think there is nothing gay about homosexuals. But there is one good thing about them, they don't reproduce themselves, thank goodness.

— **Glenn Anderson, Canon City**

"We do not need to open the military to gays and lesbians. It's too expensive for one thing. They will want military medical insurance for their spouses, most of whom will have AIDS, separate housing and special rights. All people in the United States have equal rights, but we don't need special rights."

— **Ethel Morphis, Colorado Springs**

"I think President Clinton is going against the will of the people, he has not been in office that long, and I think we should start proceedings to impeach him. If he can't go by the will of the people, let the will of the people get him out."

— **Gary Gilmore, Colorado Springs**

"Yes, I think that the homosexuals and lesbians should be allowed to serve in the military as long as they can accept and not expect any different treatment because of the sexual orientation. . . . I think people join the military to defend democracy."

— **Sylvia Pooley, Colorado Springs**

"I do not believe that gays should be allowed to openly serve in the military primarily because during times of emergency the military relies upon an untainted blood supply for troops who need transfusions. If you have a large number of undeclared homosexuals in the military — unfortunately the HIV virus does not show up until sometimes years afterward — you could decimate the military rather rapidly by having a tainted blood supply."

— **Steve Clarke, Colorado Springs**

Ban ruled unconstitutional

Judge's decision gives Clinton ammunition

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A judge struck down as unconstitutional the military's ban on homosexuals Thursday, saying it violated the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection.

The decision in the case of Keith Meinhold, 30, a Navy sonar operator who was discharged after he announced on a TV program that he was gay, came the same day President Clinton maneuvered with Congress in an effort to move toward lifting the military's 50-year-old ban on homosexuals.

"Gays and lesbians have served, and continue to serve the United States military with honor, pride, dignity and loyalty," U.S. District Judge Terry Hatter Jr. said in a written ruling.

"The Department of Defense is permanently enjoined from discharging or denying enlistment to any person based on sexual orientation in the absence of sexual conduct which interferes with the military mission of the armed forces of the United States," Hatter wrote.

Hatter: Compares gay ban to racial segregation.

Legally, Hatter's decision applies only in the portions of California covered by his court's jurisdiction. But politically, it is certain to strengthen the hands of Clinton and others seeking to end the ban nationwide.

In his ruling, Hatter said that justifications offered by the Department of Defense were baseless and similar to the reasons offered to keep the military racially segregated in the 1940s.

"Gays and lesbians should not be banned from serving our country in the absence of conduct which interferes with the military mission," said Hatter, who was appointed to the bench in 1977 by former President Jimmy Carter.

In November, Hatter issued a temporary injunction ordering the Navy to reinstate Meinhold, a 12-year Navy veteran who was honorably discharged in August after disclosing on television he is gay.

Hatter said at the time that Meinhold must be returned to his old job at Moffett Naval Air Station, south of San Francisco, pending the outcome of his lawsuit challenging the ban on homosexuals.

"I'm feeling ecstatic about it. It goes to prove all along what I've said — that the policy's unconstitutional. It's nice to see that our Constitution's going to be followed now," Meinhold said in a phone interview.

"The decision speaks to conduct. It says that if there's conduct that interferes with the military's mission, then of course that person should be discharged. I would assume that means heterosexual misconduct as well."

It wasn't immediately clear whether the Justice Department would appeal.

Knight-Ridder Tribune

Changing opinion on gays

National polls show Americans are divided over gay and lesbian issue.

■ Should homosexuality be considered an acceptable alternative lifestyle?

1982	
Yes	34%
No	51%
1992	
Yes	38%
No	57%

■ Should homosexual relationships between consenting adults be legal?

1982	
Yes	45%
No	39%
1992	
Yes	48%
No	44%

■ Should homosexuals have equal rights in terms of job opportunities?

1982	
Yes	59%
No	28%
1992	
Yes	74%
No	18%

■ Homosexuals should be hired for these occupations.

Salesperson	
'82	70%
'92	82%
Doctors	
'82	50%
'92	53%
High school teachers	
'82	Not available
'92	47%
Clergy	
'82	38%
'92	43%
Elementary teachers	
'82	32%
'92	41%

A survey of 1,002 adults with a margin of error of 3%.
Source: Gallup Polls

Springs veterans say no to gays

Legion members talk about ban

By **Louis Aguilar**
Gazette Telegraph

Thursday night was election night at American Legion Post 5 in Colorado Springs. Middle-age men and their wives streamed into the small, dark lounge on East Platte Avenue where everyone seemed to know everyone else's name.

But there was little talk of who would be elected to the post's building board. Instead, the conversation, as it has on most recent nights, focused on President Clinton's push to lift the ban on gays in the military.

"It's not the American way," said Gary Harrison, a 14-year Air Force veteran and a civil service worker at the Air Force Academy. Behind him was a large wall-hanging of an American eagle atop the Liberty Bell.

"It was a sin 20 years ago, and now we're saying it's OK," he said. "Queer, um, gays, or whatever they want to be called, simply don't belong in the military."

Harrison said he called the offices of Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell on Thursday and left a message that putting gays in the military "is morally wrong."

That sentiment was echoed again and again throughout the crowd, made up mainly of veterans in their 40s or older. They tended to use the words "queer" and "homo" to describe gays and lesbians, and many made it clear they consider homosexuality immoral.

"Ninety-nine percent of veterans disagree with the idea," said Chet Stewart, 70, who served in the Air Force for 21 years. "If not for moral reasons, then just practical reasons.

"They can do what they want in their private lives," he said. "But there is no privacy in the military. You get out in the field, civility goes out the window. Realistically, there is no way you can prevent things that you don't want to happen."

Jim Shaner, 49, who served in the Army for three years, said if the ban were lifted and he were a young man, he probably wouldn't join.

"The military has enough problems to contend with. It doesn't need another," he said. "No one can really say how large the damage it will do for morale, and that's not something you should tamper with."

Still, he and others said that with the military's insistence on discipline, the ban probably could be pulled off.

"The great thing about the military is that you have sworn to follow orders," Shaner said. "If that's what the order is, you have to follow it."

Mary Kelley/Gazette Telegraph

Gary Harrison, a 14-year-veteran of the Air Force, and other members of American Legion Post 5 in Colorado Springs discussed the issue of gays in the military at a meeting Thursday night.

COLORADO DELEGATION REACTION

"I think what he (Clinton) did was the proper thing to do. He instructed the Joint Chiefs of Staff to come up with a process to get rid of discrimination while preserving the integrity of the military. I think some of the things the military has been doing probably could have been stopped a long time ago."

"I think people opposed to gays in the military have very short memories. It wasn't that many decades ago that people were saying the same things about blacks and Japanese-Americans."

— **Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell**

"I think it's premature at best. I think it's going to cause a great deal of disorder."

— **Rep. Scott McInnis**

"The president is unfamiliar with the military. His position on this issue is not well thought out. I am concerned about the right of privacy for military personnel, who must live together as well as work together."

— **Sen. Hank Brown**
(In a statement)

Marshall/Mission was to 'cleanse Constitution'

From A1

jokester, a teacher and champion of underdogs, and the only contemporary member of the Supreme Court who had ever tried murder cases, had clients who were lynched before they could be tried and had personally felt the oppression of segregation.

A few paces from the wooden coffin draped with a simple white cloth that had been brought in by former colleagues and clerks sat President Clinton and his wife, Hillary, and Vice President Al Gore and his wife, Tipper. They had come to pay their respects to this son of a Pullman car waiter.

The ceremony was as much a celebration as it was a mourning. The choir from Howard University, where Marshall earned his law degree after being rejected by the University of Maryland because he was black, sang "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," which he had often suggested should become the national anthem. The church's Great Organ played Aaron Copland's "Fanfare for the Common Man." And the service closed with the hymn "Lift Every Voice."

Vernon Jordan, a former civil rights leader and now close adviser to Clinton, said Marshall's mission was "to cleanse our tattered Constitution and our besmirched legal system of the filth of oppressive racism and to restore to all Americans a Constitution and a legal system newly alive to the requirement of justice."

"By demonstrating that the law could be an instrument of liberation, he recruited a new generation of lawyers who had been brought up to think of the law as an instrument of oppression," Jordan said. "Those of us who grew up under the heel of Jim Crow were inspired to set our sight on the law as a career, to try to follow him on his journey of justice and equality."

Marshall will be buried today in a private ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.

INSIDE WASHINGTON

Possible pick for top position backed prewar support for Iraq

By **Marcy Gordon**/Associated Press

A Bush administration official who was a leading advocate of U.S. support for Iraq before the Persian Gulf War might be named to a top Pentagon post by President Clinton, Pentagon and other sources say.

If Clinton puts forward James "Jock" Covey for the newly created job of assistant secretary of defense for regional conflicts, he is likely to face opposition from some members of Congress, unnamed Senate aides said Thursday. Covey's nomination "would run into problems" in the Senate Armed Services Committee, one aide said.

During his campaign, Clinton was a forceful critic of the Bush administration's support for Iraq in the years leading up to Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Covey was a career foreign service officer who was appointed deputy assistant secretary of state for the Near East by the Bush administration in 1989. In that position, he was a leading advocate of U.S. support for Iraq before the gulf war.

The U.S. policy tilt toward Iraq started during the Iran-Iraq War in the early 1980s and continued until Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait in August 1990. The support included $1 billion in U.S. agricultural credits for Iraq, exports of advanced U.S. technology with potential military uses, and the sharing of military intelligence between the United States and Iraq.

"To go forward with the appointment of Jock Covey would be to reward one of the architects of the failed pre-gulf war policy toward Saddam," said Roger Robinson, a senior director of the National Security Council under Ronald Reagan.

DEFENSE

HOUSING

Developer acquitted in HUD scandal: A Connecticut lawyer and real estate developer was acquitted Thursday on perjury and obstructing justice charges in the $2 billion influence-peddling scandal at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

After deliberating six hours, the federal court jury found Victor Cruse, 43, of Hartford, Conn., innocent of all charges in connection with his testimony in July 1991 before a federal grand jury investigating cronyism and political favoritism at HUD during the Reagan administration.

"I hope to put my life back together now," Cruse said, wiping a tear from his cheek after hugging his mother.

STATE DEPARTMENT

Candidate 'shocked' by criticism: A black Cuban-American being considered for a top State Department post said Thursday he was "shocked and dismayed" over the outpouring of opposition to his candidacy among Cuban exiles.

Mario Baeza, a candidate for the department's top Latin America policy-making post, also rejected suggestions within the exile community that he is sympathetic to the Cuban revolution.

"I am not now nor have I ever been a supporter of Fidel Castro or a sympathizer with communist causes," Baeza wrote in an opinion piece published in Thursday's Miami Herald.

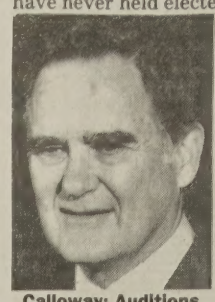
Officials have indicated Sally Shelton Colby, a Democrat and former ambassador to Barbados, also is being considered.

ALSO . . .

■ An illegal alien who once worked as a nanny for former Attorney General-designate **Zoe Baird** has agreed to leave the country, an immigration official said Thursday. Richard Kenney, a spokesman for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, said **Lillian Cordero** agreed to return to her native Peru during a meeting Thursday with immigration officials in Hartford, Conn. She and her former husband, **Victor Cordero**, who worked as a chauffeur for Baird, figured prominently in Baird's decision to withdraw her nomination last week as U.S. attorney general. Baird withdrew amid a public outcry over her illegal hiring of the Corderos as household help. Helene Pepe, Victor Cordero's lawyer, said he returned Monday to Peru.

■ **President Clinton** welcomed three people he admires to the White House on Thursday for a weekly ritual to recognize individuals from around the country. Honored were: **Kevin Roche**, winner of the 1993 Gold Medal of the American Institute of Architects; **Janie R. Hill Hatton**, recipient of the 1993 National Association of Secondary School Principals-MetLife Principal of the Year Award; and **Richard English**, 17, a bone-cancer patient from Toledo, Ohio.

■ The new Republican Party chairman, to be elected today in St. Louis, probably will be one of two party insiders who have never held elected office. The five candidates for the job were grilled Thursday behind closed doors by the 165 members of the Republican National Committee in what amounted to a high-stakes audition. The leading candidates are **Spencer Abraham** and **Haley Barbour**; others are former Missouri Gov. **John Ashcroft**, longtime RNC member **Howard "Bo" Calloway** of Colorado, a former Georgia congressman and Colorado GOP state chairman, and Oregon GOP chairman **Craig Berkman**. Calloway, 65, has visited more RNC voters and drawn more on his experience in GOP politics than the others, but may suffer from the belief that with two baby boomers running the White House, the GOP needs a younger face.



Calloway: Auditions for GOP position.

■ **President Clinton** and his Cabinet are going to Camp David. Most will arrive at the presidential retreat Saturday, spend the night and return to Washington in time for the Super Bowl. Clinton may fly to Camp David today.

QUOTABLE

"I think the honeymoon is over. I think a week is long enough."

Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss.

Lott, speaking to a group of Republican businessmen, reflected on rising criticism of Bill Clinton from congressional Republicans as his new Democratic administration struggled to get off the ground.

Gazette Telegraph news services

NATION

Packwood readies his defense

Senator accused of bullying women

Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. — Sen. Bob Packwood isn't ruling out using details of his accusers' private lives and sexual histories in his defense against sexual misconduct allegations.

In an interview Thursday with The Associated Press, Packwood said his attorneys would decide what evidence to present and the Senate Ethics Committee, which is investigating the allegations, will decide what evidence is admissible.

Leaders of women's groups were outraged, saying the Oregon Republican was trying to bully his accusers.

Packwood, 60, appeared ready to defend himself against charges that he has made unwanted sexual advances toward women staffers and others throughout his Senate career.

The Washington Post published the allegations of 10 women Nov. 22, three weeks after Packwood won election to his fifth term. Several other women have come forward since, but none publicly.

Packwood has refused to discuss specific allegations. In December, he apologized, saying his actions were "just plain wrong."

But this week, in his first visit to Oregon since the allegations were publicized, Packwood began suggesting he would challenge his accusers and that nothing would be off-limits. He told reporters he had new information about some of his accusers.

In the AP interview, he complained about accusations made against him anonymously in the media.

"Is it fair that somebody complains about my conduct, but 'I don't want to be questioned and I don't want anybody to put me under oath and I don't want to appear' and there should be no right to present any other information?" Packwood said.

"That isn't the American system," he said.

Asked whether his accusers might be less likely to cooperate with the investigation if they knew their private lives might be scrutinized, Packwood said: "All I'm saying is that if some other witness says, 'Gee, that's not the way I remember it,' is that wrong that that person should be allowed to say something if it might conflict with somebody who complains?

"Is the only evidence to be allowed that of those who complain, and no other?"

Leaders of women's groups said Packwood was trying to intimidate his accusers.

"He started out by saying that he didn't get it. Then he said he did get it. Now he says they are going to get it," said Holly Pruett, executive director of the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence.

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